

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 35-45;

Please add new claims 46-48 as follows:

1-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A method for increasing the associative behavior of a starch solution said method comprises adding a hydrophobized amylopectin starch to said starch solution, wherein the amylopectin starch is a root or tuber starch, or a derivative thereof, comprising at least 95 wt%. of amylopectin based on dry substance of the starch.

47. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein the amylopectin starch is hydrophobized by etherification or esterification.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein the amylopectin starch is hydrophobized in the presence of a surfactant.